



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/875,692	06/06/2001	Shuling Yu	60001.0016US01	7937

27488 7590 05/22/2003

MERCHANT & GOULD
P.O. BOX 2903
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CINDY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2171

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2003

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

2

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/875,692

Applicant(s)

YU ET AL.

Examiner

Cindy Nguyen

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2171

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to application filed on 06/06/2001 in which claims 1-19 are presented for examination.

1. *Information Disclosure Statement*

The information disclosure statement filed on 09/13/01 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609. Because it has been placed in the application file, and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

2. *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 15, 16, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hickman et al. (U.S 5361361) (Hickman).

Regarding claims 1, 10-12 and 16, Hickman disclose: A method, a computer readable medium and system of searching for a help utility, comprising the steps of: providing a utility search dialog (862, fig. 8 and corresponding text, Hickman);

inputting search keywords directed to one of a plurality of help utilities (862, fig. 8 and corresponding text, Hickman);

Art Unit: 2171

searching a database (help file directories) of a plurality of help utilities (866, fig. 8 and corresponding text, Hickman); finding a help utility matching the keywords; and executing the help utility (866, fig. 8 and corresponding text, Hickman);
executing the help utility (868, fig. 8 and corresponding text, Hickman).

Regarding claims 2, 13 and 17, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claim 1 and 13 above, respectively. In addition, Hickman disclose: further comprising the steps of: determining whether more than one help utility is found matching the keywords (868, fig. 8 and corresponding text, Hickman); displaying all help utilities found to match the keywords (col. 7, lines 6-13, Hickman); and selecting one of all help utilities found to match keywords (720, fig. 7 and corresponding text, Hickman).

Regarding claims 4, 15 and 19, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claim 1, 13 and 16 above, respectively. In addition, Hickman disclose: further comprising the steps of if after the step of searching a database of help utilities, a related help utility is found, displaying the related help utility invoking the related help utility (col. 7, lines 6-13, Hickman); inputting additional keywords directed to one of the plurality of help utilities (862, fig. 8 and corresponding text, Hickman); searching the database of a plurality of help utilities (866, fig. 8 and corresponding text, Hickman).

Regarding claim 5, all of the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1. In addition, Hickman disclose: whereby the plurality of help utilities includes help utilities provided by a computer operating system (fig. 1 and corresponding text, Hickman).

Regarding claim 5, all of the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1. In addition, Hickman disclose: whereby the plurality of help utilities includes help utilities provided by a computer software application (fig. 3 and corresponding text, Hickman).

Regarding claim 7, all of the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 4. In addition, Hickman disclose: wherein the interactive help utility is a wizard (340, fig. 3 and corresponding text, Hickman).

Regarding claim 8, all of the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 4. In addition, Hickman disclose: wherein the interactive help utility is a help file (312, fig. 3 and corresponding text, Hickman).

4. *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3, 9, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hickman et al. (U.S 5361361) (Hickman) in view of de Hita et al. (U.S 6081774) (Hita).

Regarding claims 3, 14 and 18, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claim 1, 13 and 16 above, respectively. However, Hickman didn't disclose: further comprising the steps of: if after the step of searching a database of a plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords, then providing the utility search dialog; inputting additional keywords directed to one of the plurality of help utilities; searching the database of a plurality of help utilities. On the other hand, Hita disclose: if after the step of searching a database of a plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords, then providing the utility search dialog; inputting additional keywords directed to one of the plurality of help utilities; searching the database of a plurality of help utilities (col. 39, lines 10-35, Hita). Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the repeat steps for searching a database of plurality of help utilities in the system of Hickman as taught by Hita. The motivation being to enable the user to continue searching help information until found the desire result.

Regarding claim 9, all of the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1. In addition, Hickman/Hita disclose: whereby the search terms may be input using a plurality of languages (col. 6, liens 5-15, Hita). Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include plurality of languages use to input for searching a database of plurality of help utilities in the system of Hickman as taught by Hita. The motivation being to allow the user to enter keywords in a number of different languages for develop a good search result.

6. Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ainsbury et al. (U.S 6078924). Method and apparatus for performing data collection, interpretation and analysis, in an information platform.

Brooks et al. (US 4992972). Flexible context searchable on-line information system with help files and modules for on-line computer system documentation

7. Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cindy Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-4698. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

cn

Cindy Nguyen
May 15, 2003


SAFET METJAHIC
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100